

Message Text

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67

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

DIWY-01 SY-05 SCCT-01 /099 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4014

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNGA, SHUM, SOCI, SGEN, SREF

SUBJECT: THIRD COMMITTEE-TORTURE ITEM

1. AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, MAJORITY OF WEO MEMBERS HAVE BEEN CONCERNED THAT INTRODUCTION OF US INITIATIVE ON WORKING GROUP TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM OF TORTURE WOULD CREATE PROBLEMS FOR ADOPTION OF TORTURE DECLARATION. THIS FEELING IS ALSO EVIDENT AMONG REPRESENTATIVES FROM OTHER REGIONAL GROUPS.

2. THE THIRD COMITE IS NOW MORE THAN A MONTH BEHIND IN ITS SCHEDULE. THERE ARE ONLY 20 MEETINGS OF THE COMITE SCHEDULED BEFORE THE TARGET DATE FOR CLOSING COMITE MEETINGS ON DECEMBER 5. AMONG THE REMAINING ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED ARE NOT ONLY TORTURE, UNHCR, AND NINE OTHER ITEMS THAT RISK NOT GETTING SUBSTANTIVE ATTENTION, BUT ALSO IWY. ONCE DISCUSSION OF IWY BEGINS IT IS EXPECTED TO TAKE HALF OF THE REMAINING MEETINGS.

3. GIVEN THE FACTOR OF GENERAL APPREHENSION AMONG SUPPORTERS OF UN WORK ON TORTURE THAT THIS INITIATIVE AT THIS TIME MIGHT IMPAIR THE POSSIBILITIES FOR ADOPTING THE DRAFT DECLARATION, AND ALSO THE OBVIOUS THREAT THAT LACK OF TIME WILL FORECLOSE MEANINGFUL DISCUSSION, USUN BELIEVES THAT NEW INSTRUCTIONS ARE REQUIRED

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ON THIS SUBJECT.

4. THE SIMPLE PROBLEM IS THAT FORGOING AHEAD NOW, LATE IN THE SESSION, MAKES IT ALL TOO EASY FOR OPPONENTS OF WORK ON TORTURE TO SAY THAT THE WHOLE ISSUE SHOULD BE BOUND OVER FOR CONSIDERATION ANOTHER YEAR. GIVEN THE WORK YET TO BE DONE BY THE COMITE, A SENSE OF REALISM IMPELS USUN TO POINT OUT THAT SUCH A MORE MIGHT BE SUCCESSFUL IF WE PRESS AHEAD WITH THE WORKING GROUP DRAFT.

5. USUN RECOMMENDS THAT UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WE GIVE OUR FULL EFFORTS TO ASSURING ADOPTION OF THE DECLARATION. USUN FURTHER RECOMMENDS THAT PROCEDURAL RES NOW BEING DRAFTED IN ORDER TO PLACE SUBJECT ON AGENDA OF NEXT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING BE FRAMED IN SUCH A WAY THAT THIS PROPOSAL CAN BE RAISED AT THAT TIME.
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Message Attributes

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